REMARKS

Applicants, in submitting this response to the pending Office Action, hereby request pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.39(b)(1) that prosecution be reopened and that the pending appeal be withdrawn.

Claims 16-24 remain in the application. The independent claims are claims 16 and 21, both of which are amended herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested in view of the amendments indicated above and the remarks set forth below.

Claims 16-24 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,071 (hereinafter "Balderrama")

Claim 16 is directed to a "method" which includes "allowing a content creator to log into a system" and "providing a content type specific template to the content creator", where the content type specific template is "associated with a particular content type of a plurality of content types supported by the system". The claimed method further includes "allowing the content creator to create a draft by using the content type specific template" and "selecting at least one of a reviewer and an editor from among a plurality of reviewers and editors accessible via the system". The selecting of the at least one of a reviewer and an editor is "based at least in part on the content type specific template". Claim 16, as now amended, further specifies that the selected reviewer or editor is "a user of the system". Finally, claim 16 recites "transmitting the draft to an inbox of the selected at least one of a reviewer and an editor".

Support for the limitation that the selected editor or reviewer is a user of the system is found at page 6, lines 7-14 of the specification. Support for the limitation that the draft is sent to an inbox of the selected reviewer or editor is found at page 17, lines 19-20 of the specification.

The Balderrama reference discloses a system for generating a multimedia presentation to be presented via a kiosk or the like. In explaining the rejection of claim 16, the Examiner relied upon Balderrama's disclosure of allegedly selecting a "graphics editor" or an "audio editor",

referred to at column 6, lines 29-42. However, the "graphics editor" and the "audio editor" referred to in the reference are clearly described as software tools, and not users of the system, as now specified in claim 16. To put the matter another way, Balderrama describes a data flow among software components, whereas claim 16 recites selection of an individual user or users of a system to receive a draft. To further emphasize this point, applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to column 6, lines 29-37 of the Balderrama, at which the reference lists as examples of "graphics editors" well-known software packages such as "Publisher's Paintbrush", "Coreldraw" and "Photoshop". Further, at column 6, lines 37-42, the reference gives "WaveEdit" as an example of an "audio editor". Applicants believe that it is beyond argument that the term "editor" as used in Balderrama refers to a piece of software and not to a human user of a system. Thus the reference fails to teach or suggest selecting a reviewer or editor who is a user of a system based on a content type specific template.

In addition, claim 16 has been amended to recite that a draft is transmitted to an inbox of a selected reviewer or editor. This claim element also is not taught or suggested by the Balderrama reference. Balderrama does not in any way disclose transmitting a draft to a reviewer or editor's inbox. As noted above, the so-called "editors" referred to in the reference are pieces of software, not system users who have inboxes.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 16 as now clarifyingly amended is directed to subject matter that is not taught or rendered obvious by the Balderrama reference.
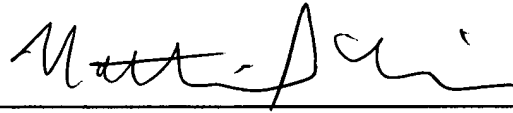
Claim 21, which is the other independent claim, has been amended in the same manner as claim 16 to clarify that the selected reviewer or editor is a user of a system, not a software module, and that the draft is sent to an inbox of such a user. Thus claim 21, at least as now clarified, is patentably distinguished from the Balderrama reference for the same reasons given above with respect to claim 16.

The dependent claims are submitted as patentable on the same basis as the independent claims.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2004
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